

CLAIMS

1. Molding unit for an extrusion-blow molding machine for articles made of thermoplastic material, of the type in which the molding unit (10) comprises a mold in two parts (12, 14), each 5 mold-half (12, 14) being borne by a movable support (16, 18), of the type in which the two movable supports (16, 18) are moved transversely, in opposite directions with respect to the frame that bears them, between an open position in which the two mold-halves (12, 14) are transversely separated from each other, to allow the insertion of a blank of the article in a cavity delimited between the two mold-halves, and a closed position in which the two mold-halves are 10 pressed against each other and in which the supports (16, 18) are connected to each other by a screw means, of the type in which the molding unit (10) has a mechanism (22, 24, 26) of simultaneous movement of the two supports of the molds (16, 18), and of the type in which the molding unit (10) has, between at least one of the mold-halves (12) and the associated support (16), compensating means (30) which push the mold-half (12) transversely toward the other 15 mold-half (14),

characterized in that the mechanism (24) for moving the supports is linked to at least said associated support (16), by means of elastically deformable means (46) that are suitable for compensating for the deformation of the support (16) created by the forces exerted by the compensating means (30).

20 2. Molding unit according to claim 1, characterized in that the movement mechanism acts on the plate (34), which is transversely slideably mounted on the support (32, 16), and in that the spring forming means (46) are interposed transversally between the plate (34) and the support (32, 16).

25 3. Molding unit according to either of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the plate (34) can pivot with respect to the support (16).

4. Molding unit according to either of claims 2 or 3, characterized in that the spring forming means comprise blocks of elastomer material (46).

5. Molding unit according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the mechanism for moving the two supports (16, 18) is comprised of a drive screw (22), which is furnished with two threaded sections (22a, 22b), the direction of turn of the threads of the two sections being opposite, and each threaded section cooperating with a nut (24, 26) linked to one
5 of the supports, and in that the elastically deformable means (46) are interposed between the nut (24) and the support (16) to which it is linked.

6. Molding unit according to claim 5, characterized in that the nuts (24, 26) are ball-race nuts.

7. Molding unit according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that it
10 comprises compensating means (30) only between one (12) of the mold-halves and the associated support (16), and in that the elastically deformable means (46) are interposed only between said associated support and the mechanism for moving the supports (16, 18).

8. Extrusion-blow molding machine, characterized in that it comprises at least one molding unit according to any of the preceding claims.